

Brahmana & Aranyaka

Content of The Vedas

- Vedas divided traditionally into two parts
 - Mantras / Samhita
 - Brahmanas
- Collection of Mantras called Samhita
 - Sometime referred to as the Veda
- Brahmanas
 - Theological Treatises having their own names
 - Lays down various rites - karma - to be performed
 - Explains procedures as guide for the conduct of Yajnas
- End portion of many Brahmanas' are 'Aranyakas'
- Embedded in Aranyakas, at end are 'Upanishads'

Content of The Vedas

- **RV, SV, AV, YV (Shukla)**
 - **Clear separation of the Mantra collection from the Brahmana portions**
- **YV (Krshna)**
 - **Mantra and Brahmana portions are intermixed**
 - **Taittiriya Samhita- Mantras scattered with Brahmana**
 - **Taittiriya Brahmana - Mantras & Brahmana passages mixed with each other**

Content of The Vedas

- **Often no clear-cut distinction between**
 - **Brahmanas proper and Aranyakas**
 - **Aranyakas and the Upanishads**
- **Brahmana text proper often merges into the Aranyakas**
- **Many Upanishads are actually embedded in the Aranyakas**

RigVeda Brahmanas

- **Shankhayana Brahmana**
 - 30 chapters
 - Still studied in Gujarat and Maharashtra
 - Kausitaki Brahmana prevalent in Kerala is similar
- **Aitareya Brahmana**
 - common to Shakala and Ashvalayana shakhas
 - 8 groups (called 'Panchikas') of 5 chapters
 - First 30: composition of Rishi Mahidasa Aitareya
 - Last 10 chapters are by Rishi Shaunaka

RigVeda-Aitareya Brahmana

- Chapters 1-13 : duties of the Hotr priest in the Agnishtoma sacrifice
- Chapter 14 : meaning of the word 'Agnishtoma' and other matters
- Chapters 15-17: describe Ukthya, Shodasha, Atiratra & other sacrifices
- Chapter 18 : contains rules for the Hotr priest
- Chapters 19-24 : discuss the duties of the Hotr priest at minor sacrifices

- Chapters 25 : deals with sundry matters
appropriate times of performing Agnishtoma, duties of Brahma priest

- Chapters 26-30 : deal with duties of Gravastuta, Subrahmanya and six other minor priests involved in Soma sacrifices

- Chapters 31-40 : deal with the sacrifices performed by the Kshatriyas (e.g. Vajapeya, Rajasuya) and mutual relationships of Brahmanas and Kshatriyas

Shukla Yajurveda Brahmanas

- **Madhyandina Shatapatha Brahmanas**
 - Divided into 14 Kandas containing 100 adhyayas, 68 prapathakas, 436 Brahmanas and 7179 Kandikas
- **Kanva Shatapatha Brahmanas**
 - Divided into 17 Kandas, 104 adhyayas, 435 Brahmanas and 6806 Kandikas

Krishna Yajurveda Brahmanas

- **Taittiriya Brahmana**

- 3 kandas, divided into 8, 8 and 12 adhyayas
- total of 17480 sentences
- The first kanda of the text deals with the Agnyadhana, Gavamayana, Vajapeya, Soma, Nakshatreshti and Rajasuya
- The Second kanda deals with Agnihotra, Upahomas, Sautramani, Vaisysava and others
- The last kanda gives some additional details on the Nakshatreshti, the Ashvamedha and some parables like that of Bharadvaja, together with the Purushamedha Yajna

Krishna Yajurveda Brahmanas

- Maitrayani Samhita and an Aranyaka
- (Caraka) Katha Samhita
 - Katha school has an additional fragmentary Brahmana and Aranyaka
- Kapisthalakatha Samhita and a few fragments of its Brahmana

Sama Veda Brahmanas

- Tandyamaha or Pañcavi ¢ śa Brahmana (PB), Śādvi ¢ śa Brahmana (¢ advB)
- Samavidhana Brahmana
- Arseya Brahmana
- Devatadhyaya or Daivata Brahmana
- Mantra or Chandogya Brahmana (MB)
- Samhitopanisad Brahmana
- Vamsa Brahmana
- Jaiminiya Brahmana (JB)
- Jaiminiya Arseya Brahmana
- Jaiminiya Upanishad Brahmana

Atharva Veda Brahmana

- **Gopatha Brahamana**

- only extant Brahmana of the Atharvaveda
- divided into two parts – Purvabhaaga and Uttarabhaag
- The Purvabhaga of Brahman exhibits glorifies the Atharvan and priests
- Uttarabhaga follows other Brahmanas in its content and introduces legends related to other Atharvan teachers
- Embedded in the Gopatha Brahmana are Upanishad texts like the Pranava Upanishad

Aranyakas

- Rigveda
 - Aitareya Aranyaka belongs to the Shakala Shakha
 - Kaushitaki Aranyaka belongs to the Kaushitaki and Shankhayana Shakhas
- Krishna-Yajurveda
 - Taittiriya Aranyaka
 - Maitrayaniya Aranyaka
 - Katha Aranyaka
- Shukla-Yajurveda
 - Brihad-Aranyaka in the Madhyandina and the Kanva versions
- Samaveda
 - Talavakara Aranyaka or Jaiminiya Upanisadbrahmana
- The Atharvaveda has no surviving Aranyaka
 - though one may regard the Gopatha Brahmana as its Aranyaka,
 - a remnant of a larger Atharva (Paippalada) Brahmana

Thanks